

Parker River

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D)
Senator John F. Kerry (D)
Rep. John F. Tierney (D-6th)

Contact

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Profile

Established :	1942
Current acres:	4,662
Staff:	12
FY 2003 budget:	
2002 volunteer hours:	2,703
2002 visitation:	252,563

Purpose

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge was established as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.

Public Use Notes

- Surf fishing
- Shellfishing
- Controlled deer hunt
- Wheelchair accessible trail
- Beach use restricted during piping plover nesting season

Management Activities

- Provide undisturbed feeding and nesting habitat for federally threatened piping plover

- Manage wetland, upland, grassland and shrub/thicket habitats for migratory songbirds, shorebirds and waterfowl
- Restore saltmarsh habitat and utilize open marsh water management in partnership with other organizations
- Thacher Island NWR, managed as a satellite of Parker River NWR, is located in Rockport, MA and consists of 22 acres of rocky grassland, shrubland, and ocean shore that serve as nesting habitat for several gull species

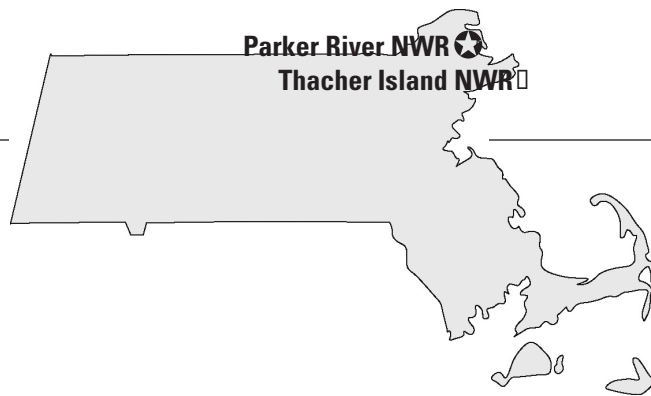
Highlights

New refuge headquarters and visitor center scheduled to open in 2003.

Approximately 1,600 acres of undeveloped barrier island habitats (sandy beach and dune, shrub/thicket, upland grassland, fresh and brackish water marshes, maritime woodland) and 3,000 acres of associated salt marsh.

Considered to be among the top 10 birding areas in the U.S.

Nominated as an Important Bird Area by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and currently applying for nomination as a site within the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network.



A portion of the Cape Ann Light Station, a national historic landmark, is located on the refuge.

Issues

Invasive plant species

Some management programs and policies are controversial.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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